

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, September 8, 2009

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Seth Adams, Faith Klareich, Steve Cardon, Christine Davidson-McCord, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, , and Tolu Odunlami

Absent: Dominique Lorang-Leins

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management; Steve Mader, City of Rockville Parks and Facilities; Mike Coppersmith, City of Rockville, Special Events.

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved (Dighe/Kravitz).

Special Events Discussion led by Mike Coppersmith, Special Events Coordinator

Mike described the City's special events calendar for 2010 and indicated those events best suited for public outreach. These are Hometown Holidays, Independence Day, Rotary Runfest, Farmers Markets, Thursday Night Summer Concert Series, Wine Fest and the Car Show.

The Commission is encouraged to participate in any and all of these events. Participation should involve interactive displays rather than flyer or factsheet distribution alone. A short environmental or energy efficiency program in conjunction with the *Green Vendor* program is appropriate.

The *Green Vendor* element of Hometown Holidays grew out of the County's 2007 "Save the Planet" series that included a green vendor event. The program, stage schedules and invited vendors are typically set by the end of December. The optimum number of vendors is 25-30 at the current location. Getting vendors to attend both days of the event is often difficult. For profit organizations are charged for their booth and every organization is charged \$25 for electricity.

Deer Management Discussion by Steve Mader, Parks Superintendent

There are approximately 120 deer per square mile of Rockville. This is not a sustainable population. Lime disease has more than doubled locally in the last few years. This winter, Recreation and Parks would like to begin revisiting the City's existing Deer Management Policy. The Department intends to brief the Mayor and Council on the issue and request approval to convene a task force for 6-12 months to identify options and make recommendations on solutions. The Department would specifically like the

Commission's involvement on this issue and requested that a Commission representative serve on this task force (if created). Christine Davidson-McCord volunteered to be the Commission's representative should a task force be convened.

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

Budget – The State has announced that it will be withholding \$2.4 million from the City. A proposed budget reduction plan is being prepared for the Mayor and Council's consideration. It is not clear whether or how this development will effect the recruitment of the vacant environmental specialist position previously held by Nate Wall.

Stormwater – Environmental Management has hired Amanda Matheny to conduct stream surveys and fats oils and grease inspections. Amanda starts September 21, 2009.

There have been weekly strategy sessions to identify and resolve technical issues associated with the comprehensive re-write of Chapter 19 (Stormwater Management) of the City Code. Environmental Management expects to provide an advanced draft to the Commission in early November.

A final draft of the City's Invasive Species Policy is being prepared and will be circulated to the Commission for review this fall.

Accomplishments and Goals – In anticipation of the Mayor and Council briefing, a summary of the Commission's FY 2009 accomplishments and FY 2010 goals was distributed. Notes from the Commission's August 2009 retreat were also distributed.

Committee Reports

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee – No Report

Watershed Protection Committee

The Committee met in July 2009 (third Wednesday of the month at 7:15 pm at 30 Courthouse Square). The group discussed the upcoming *Save Our Streams* training to be held at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. There was also discussion of a stormwater brochure and the need for a policy on the application of winter-storm road salts. Finally, the group decided to schedule a clean up of Maryvale Creek in the spring.

Outreach and Education Committee

The Committee met in August 2009. There was a preliminary discussion of Hometown Holidays planning. Follow up steps to the Commission retreat were also discussed. Purchases needed for future display booths were also identified and transmitted to Environmental Management for purchase.

New Business – None from the floor

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 13, 2009** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- Klareich or Dighe plan to contact the Planning Commission members about potential Environment Commission in the Gude Maintenance Yard and Old Post Office projects.
- Charles to provide instructions on how Commissioners can subscribe to the Rockville City weekly email.
- Charles to confirm that we have anew pump for the rain barrel display.
- Retreat notes should be grouped by priorities.
- Outreach Committee intends to contact Mike Coppersmith and participate in the green vendor selection and invitation process.